

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER
APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM
FISCAL YEAR 2011**

Instructions

1. Please complete the entire form. **All fields are required.**
2. Please do not **bold**, underline, or *italicize* responses.
3. Request forms must be submitted as a Word document.
4. All completed request forms and any supplemental materials must be submitted via email to: Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov
5. Please do not send more than one request per email.
6. All completed request forms must be submitted no later than **Friday, February 26, 2010.**
7. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your request within 48 hours of submission, please contact Stephanie Cappa in Congressman Blumenauer's Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-4811.

PLEASE NOTE: All appropriations requests submitted to Congressman Blumenauer's office will be made public on his website, as required by the House Committee on Appropriations.

Project Details

1. **Project title:** Habitat Protection and Restoration for The Intertwine
2. **Organization name and address** (the recipient of the funds):

Metro
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

3. **Contact information**
 - a. **Project's primary contact:** Mike Wetter, Senior Advisor to the President
 - b. **Daytime telephone number/ mobile phone number:** (503) 797-1538
 - c. **Email Address:** mike.wetter@oregonmetro.gov
 - d. **Project location** (if different than organization's address):

4. **Please describe the requesting organization's main activities.**

Metro is the regional government of the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area, with responsibility for growth management, land use and transportation planning, conservation, regional parks, solid waste management, and regional facilities.

5. **Is this organization a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity?**

Public.

6. From what federal agency and account are you requesting funds (Please be specific –e.g., Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account)?

National Park Service, Land Acquisition and State Assistance

Or

Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Programs and Management

7. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (no more than 500 words).

From 1991 through 2004, federal funding was allocated through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the Metropolitan Greenspaces Program, a bi-state effort to conserve natural resources in the Portland, Oregon/Vancouver, Washington area. The Greenspaces Program was an innovative, cost-effective, partnership-based initiative supported by a large constituency of private and public entities and administered jointly by USFWS and Metro. Federal allocations of approximately \$300,000 annually supported natural resource planning and conservation efforts and provided over \$2.6 million for more than 300 habitat restoration, natural resource conservation and environmental education grant projects that leveraged over three dollars in local contributions for every federal dollar.

The Metropolitan Greenspaces Program was discontinued in 2005 due to lack of funding. However, the collaborative approach and momentum established by the program continued to build, eventually emerging as a broad-based conservation coalition called “The Intertwine Alliance.” Building on the early successes of the Metropolitan Greenspaces Program, civic leaders in the Portland / Vancouver region have brought dozens of public, private and nonprofit organizations together with the goal of creating the greatest urban network of parks, trails and natural areas in the world. The coalition has launched an initiative to complete the region’s trails and “active transportation” network; begun developing a conservation plan; launched a website; initiated a marketing campaign to better connect residents with nature; increased investment in outdoor school; and started work on region-wide “Intertwine” signing that will knit the region together across jurisdictional boundaries. The coalition also successfully led a \$227.4 million bond measure campaign, which won voter support in November 2006, to acquire thousands of acres of natural area land.

Recently, The Intertwine Alliance joined forces with coalitions in Chicago (Chicago Wilderness), Houston (Houston Wilderness), Cleveland (Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership for Biodiversity), and Los Angeles (Amigos De Los Rios) to establish metropolitan conservation coalitions as the “best practice” delivery mechanism for investments in green infrastructure and conservation in Metropolitan regions. In aggregate, these organizations comprise 500 private, nonprofit and public organizations and these regions comprise twenty-three million people.

This project would allow Metro to partner with federal agencies and The Intertwine Alliance to:

- Set conservation priorities and develop conservation strategies for the Portland, Oregon / Vancouver, Washington metropolitan region. We have put in place funding to purchase natural area land. Now we need to take care of it.
- Develop a plan to integrate investments in green infrastructure and carbon sequestration in the metropolitan region.

- Leverage public, private and nonprofit funding to implement key conservation priorities. Funding would ensure clean water, protect wildlife habitat, and provide signing and interpretation.
- Coordinate with federal agencies for protection, conservation and recovery of federal trust species including threatened and endangered species and migratory birds.

8. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?

The project would provide coordination with federal agencies for protection, conservation and recovery of federal trust species including threatened and endangered species and migratory birds. The greater Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region occupies a critical place in the Pacific Northwest landscape. It lies in the valley bottom area where the Willamette and Columbia River meet. This nearly 3,000-square-mile area will either continue to serve as an effective migration path or will serve as a barrier and bottleneck to both species migration and ecosystem adaptation to climate change, depending on the decisions we make in the next decade. Further, this geography is the initial point of contact with nature for a large share of the state’s residents who will directly or indirectly affect the success of federal actions in species protection in adjacent or nearby federal ownership.

The region’s voters have agreed to tax themselves to purchase thousands of acres of natural area land. However, funding to restore the land to ecological health is extremely limited. Despite the federal government’s stake in the health of the region’s ecosystems, and the fact that it is a significant landowner within and surrounding the region, federal agencies are not currently a financial partner in most restoration activities in the metropolitan region.

9. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?

Not in its current form. The Metropolitan Greenspaces Program was a precursor.

9a. If yes, please provide the fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.

Funding Details

10. Amount requested for this project:

\$600,000

11. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project (e.g., salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Federal coordination on species protection (salary): | \$ 60,000 |
| Consultant: | \$ 80,000 |
| Projects (Grants): | \$460,000 |

12. What is the total cost of the project?

The project has several components:

Acquisition. The region’s residents have committed \$362.4 million for natural area acquisition and residents in the Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation Division have committed an additional \$100 million for a total of \$462.4 million.

Conservation Plan. The Intertwine Alliance, a coalition of public, private and nonprofit organizations, is working on a conservation framework that will be the scientific basis for a regional conservation plan, which sets priorities for conservation investment. Total investment in the framework is expected to be \$200,000 plus in-kind contributions from at least a dozen nonprofit organizations and government agencies. Setting regional priorities to create a full-fledged conservation plan will require an additional investment.

Restoration and Enhancement. Metro has committed funding to natural area restoration and enhancement through its Nature in Neighborhoods grant program, which supports hands-on activities and environmental education programs that protect and contribute to watershed health in the region. The program has invested about \$1,583,096 to date.

Conservation Priorities. Some of the appropriations request will go towards conservation grants, which will leverage additional funding. The Metropolitan Greenspaces Program leveraged more than three dollars for every federal dollar invested. This would yield an additional \$1.84 million.

Total All: \$466,023,096

13. Is this project scalable (i.e., If partial funding is awarded, will the organization still be able to use the funds in FY 2011?)?

Yes

14. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please be specific about funding sources and funding amounts)

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Natural Areas Acquisition (Metro) | \$362,400,000 |
| Natural Areas Acquisition (THPRD) | 100,000,000 |
| Conservation Framework (Metro) | 100,000 |
| Conservation Framework (Grants Pending) | 100,000 |
| Restoration and Enhancement Grants (Metro) | 1,583,096 |
| Match for Grants (Applicant) | 1,840,000 |
| Total All: | \$466,023,096 |

15. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project.

The Intertwine Alliance is a coalition of dozens of public, private and nonprofit organizations working together to expand and protect the parks, trails and natural areas in the Portland / Vancouver metropolitan region. A subgroup of the Alliance, the Conservation Work Group, includes organizations who are investing time and resources in developing and implementing the regional conservation plan. They include:

Columbia Land Trust (project mgr)—Contact: Scott McEwen
City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services—Contact: Claire Puchy,
City of Portland Parks and Recreation—Contact: Deborah Lev

Clean Water Services—Contact: Rich Hunter
Institute For Natural Resources—Contact: Jimmy Kagan,
Metro—Contact: Kathleen Brennan-Hunter or Jonathan Soll
Nature Conservancy—Contact: Michael Schindel
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife—Contact: Holly Michael
Portland Audubon—Contact: Bob Sallinger
Urban Greenspaces Institute—Contact: Mike Houck
Wetlands Conservancy—Contact: Esther Lev

Please return this form no later than Friday, February 26, 2010 via email to:

Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov

Washington, D.C. Appropriations Contact for Rep. Earl Blumenauer: Stephanie Cappa, 202-225-4811, Stephanie.Cappa@mail.house.gov

Oregon Appropriations Contact for Rep. Earl Blumenauer: Sarah Masterson, 503-231-2300, Sarah.Masterson@mail.house.gov